

## Message Text

SECRET POSS DUPE

PAGE 01 PARIS 11228 082248Z

12

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 082209Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8969

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SANAA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

SECRET

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PAGE 02 PARIS 11228 082248Z

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

USMISSION NATO  
USMISSION GENEVA  
USMISSION USUN  
AMCONSUL BOMBAY  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMCONSUL MADRAS  
CINCPAC  
CINCUSNAVEUR  
CINCLANTFLT  
COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T PARIS 11228

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, PARM, US, XO, FR  
SUBJECT: US POLICY TOWARD INDIAN OCEAN

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 5616; (B) BANGKOK 7092; (C) NAIROBI  
3635; (D) DAR ES SALAAM 1387; (E) PARIS 10223; (F) PARIS  
10518

1. SUMMARY. IF US DECIDES TO UNDERTAKE INITIATIVE REGARDING RESTRAINT ON MILITARY DEPLOYMENTS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, WE RECOMMEND THAT WE ENGAGE IN TIMELY SUBSTANTIVE CONSULTATIONS WITH GOF AND OTHER ALLIES WITH INTERESTS IN INDIAN OCEAN BEFORE RAISING SUBJECT WITH OTHERS. END SUMMARY.

2. WE HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST THE DISCUSSION OF US POLICY TOWARD THE INDIAN OCEAN (IO), SPARKED BY AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN'S TELEGRAM. FRENCH, OF COURSE, CONSIDER THAT THEY, TOO, HAVE INTEREST IN QUESTION OF MAJOR POWERS' MILITARY POSTURE IN IO. MOST RECENTLY, GOF HAS DEPLOYED NAVAL SQUADRON TO IO TO UNDERLINE VISIBLY ITS CONTINUING INTEREST IN THAT AREA (REFS E AND F). WE EXPECT THAT SUCCESSOR TO PRESIDENT POMPIDOU WILL CONTINUE TO SEE FRENCH INTERESTS DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN IO AREA.

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PAGE 03 PARIS 11228 082248Z

3. AS WASHINGTON CONSIDERS SUGGESTIONS IN REFTELS, WE RECOMMEND THAT IT FACTOR IN DESIRABILITY OF CONSULTATION WITH GOF -- AND OTHER INTERESTED ALLIES SUCH AS UK -- PRIOR TO UNDERTAKING INITIATIVES SUCH AS DESCRIBED IN PARA 13 B OF REF A OR PARA 8 OF REF D. ABSENCE OF PRIOR CONSULTATION WITH FRENCH (PARTICULARLY IF BILATERAL TALKS WITH THE USSR TO DISCUSS REDUCTION OF NAVAL FORCES IN THE IO ARE INVOLVED) COULD ADD FUEL TO SUSPICIONS OF SUPER POWER HEGEMONY.

MOREOVER, QUESTION OF APPROPRIATE MILITARY  
BALANCE IN IO IS INCREASINGLY TOPICAL FOR GOF AND OTHER  
ALLIES GIVEN IMPORTANT ROLE OF IO AS SEA LANE FOR  
EUROPE'S PETROLEUM SUPPLIES.

4. WE CAN ENVISION SEVERAL MECHANISMS FOR SUCH CON-  
SULTATION: BILATERAL US-GOF; TRILATERAL US-GOF-UK;  
MULTILATERAL AT NEW YORK AND/OR NATO. IN FACT, ANY OR  
ALL OF THESE APPROACHES COULD BE SATISFACTORY. SEEN  
FROM PARIS, THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL CONSULTATION RESTS  
MORE WITH US WILLINGNESS TO BE FORTHCOMING IN A TIMELY  
FASHION WITH ITS ALLIES THAN WITH THE FORUM WE CHOOSE  
FOR THESE CONSULTATIONS.  
IRWIN

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, MILITARY BASES, MILITARY POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 08 MAY 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974PARIS11228  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740112-1053  
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**Office:** ACTION NEA  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** SECRET  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** (A) NEW DELHI 5616; (B) BANGKOK 7092, ; (C) NAIROBI  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GarlanWA  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 APR 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22 APR 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <06 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** US POLICY TOWARD INDIAN OCEAN  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MARR, PARM, US, XO, FR  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005